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EDWIN B. STEGMAN
ATTORNEY AT LAW
12304 SANTA MONICA BOULEVARD
SUITE 300
LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90025
PHONE 310-820-2828 FAX 310-820-6868

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MR MICHAEL K POWELL, CHAIR
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12TH ST SW
WASHINGTON DC 20554

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Dear Commissioner Powell:

Permitting ownership of television networks by big conglomerates is bad public policy. GE, Vivendi Universal, Disney and Newscorp own NBC, CBS, ABC and Fox. They all have big conflicts between the interests of the public and the interests of their many businesses.

We have clearly seen that top executives of many corporations are dishonest and unscrupulous. As far as Congress and the FCC are concerned, Enron, Global Crossing, Qwest and WorldCom could each have purchased a network and now own ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox.

TV networks have an enormous influence on public opinion -- more than any other media; thus, they are in a special category. Big conglomerates should never control the means of controlling public opinion. Control of the TV networks puts them in a position to pressure members of congress, governors, mayors, legislators and presidents to benefit their other businesses.

The networks are profitable and financially self sufficient. They should be owned and operated by stand-alone corporations without other interests that propaganda would benefit.

There is no benefit to the public from large multinational corporations controlling the networks.

I urge you to use your influence to persuade the President, Congress and the FCC to ban ownership of the networks by big corporations with conflicting interests.

Sincerely,

Edwin B. Stegman

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